Choir Preparing Spring Programs

Of the several upcoming activities planned for the Shaker choirs this spring, the first two at hand promise to be the most exciting. The Lake Erie League (LEL) Festival, to be held on March 5, is an annual celebration where five northeastern Ohio high schools unite for a day of singing and recreation. The "Red and White Revue" is this year's multi-talent show produced and performed by the choirs and will take place on March 12. All profits received for this production will help purchase new robes for the A Cappella Choir. Both events are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

This year's LEL Festival, which will be held at Valley Forge High School in Parma, combines the choirs of Shaker Heights, Cleveland Heights, Berea Midpark, Valley Forge and Normandy high schools. The concert could not be held at Shaker because the auditorium stage cannot accommodate the 500 singers who will be participating. The program begins at 7:30 p.m., although the Shaker choir will leave late that morning. When they arrive in Parma at about 1:00, they will start rehearsing. The rehearsal is necessary because in addition to their individual numbers, the choirs will sing five pieces as one group. The mass number which Mr. Everson has selected is "The Exhortation" by John Ness Beck. After rehearsal, there will be dinner followed by a recreation period. Finally, at 7:30, the concert will begin. Shaker will sing three songs individually: "Roots and Leaves," "Mood Indigo," and "The Breadth and Extent of Man's Empire."

One week later, Shaker will perform its own "Red and White Revue". This is a traditional event for those years when there is no musical. The theme of this year's revue is "There's No Business Like Show Business", and the program will consist of various pop music acts featuring the vocal and instrumental talents of both the choir and band. Also, comedy skits of all kinds will be performed. The Concert Choir will sing "Man of La Mancha", and the A t appella Choir will sing "Great Day" and the theme song, "There's No Business Like Show Business". Tickets may be purchased for $1.50 in advance and $2.00 at the door. The show will begin at 8:15 and all students are urged to attend.

In the near future, the choirs will also perform a Bicentennial Concert, which will involve all schools in the Shaker district; a Spring Concert, whose date is tentatively set at May 7; and at the Senior Graduation.

"Don't Drink The Water", the second play produced this year at Shaker, was seen last month. A review of this Woody Allen comedy can be found on page 3.

THE SHAKERITE

46th Year, No. 8 — Shaker Heights High School, Shaker Heights, Ohio — March 5, 1976

Nat'l Theatre Company to Present "Feelin' Good"

by Jim Freedman

The National Theatre Company will present "Feelin' Good", a musical tribute to the black entertainer in America, on March 15 at 2:40 in the high school auditorium. This production premiered last season and went on to receive consistently good reviews wherever it played. "Feelin' Good" was showcased at the NEC convention in Washington D.C. where it was a hit with the students and faculties of the representative institutions.

From the minstrel tunes of the nineteenth century to the rock and roll explosion of today, American music owes a debt to that indefinable musical quality that came to America from Africa–that quality we call "soul." Black music was some three hundred years in the making. It is a music that was once a matter of life and death representing the struggles, heroism, and history of a people. Through song, dance and humor, "Feelin' Good" traces the history of the American black man's contribution to the world of American musical entertainment. It is the story of a syncopated beat; a rhythm that became the pulse of America: a sound that was re-shaped, re-written and expanded into virtually every modern musical form.

"Feelin' Good" is a panorama that traces a tradition and culture to the pinnacles of artistic achievement in our time.

"Feelin' Good" opens where much of the music we enjoy today had its beginnings - the black man's church. The audience is taken from a demonstration of the transplanted African rhythms on a Southern plantation to the first black influence on the American stage - the minstrel show. Using music, sketches and narration, "Feelin' Good" travels through the history of jazz, the black vaudeville circuit and the black Broadway stage, including a parade of music and personalities which span half a century. From Broadway the performers take the audience to Harlem's Apollo Theatre, which has hosted practically every black performer of the last fifty years.

Producers Barry and Fran Weissler have chosen a young and talented team to create this tribute to the black entertainer in America. Sue Lawless has directed the cast in spirited and stirring musical numbers and humorous comedy scenes. Ms. Lawless, a seasoned veteran of the New York Stage, most recently directed the hit musical "In Gay Company" at the Little Hippedrome. With her comedy partner, Ted Pugh of "Irene," Ms. Lawless formed an act which opened to raves in New York (and Toronto) in Off-Broadway Stage 73. They played all the major talk shows, including "The Tonight Show," "The Merv Griffin Show," and the "David Frost Show." Marilyn Stasio of CUE MAGAZINE says of the performer: "Sue Lawless is one of the funniest ladies alive."

Author Sean O'Malley is a veteran of four NTC productions: "The Age of Shaw," "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," "Oliver Twist," and "Celebration USA!" The costumes were created by Winn Morton, who has designed for the Jones Beach Marine Theatre as well as numerous regional and Broadway productions.

Since the National Theatre Company's performance must be financed, tickets will be fifty cents. A pre-sale will be held, so tickets might not be available at the door.

Watching a National Theatre Company Production reach its final form is an exciting process. Although seemingly simple, it actually requires a lot of time and planning for all involved. Before a current season is closed, Producers Fran and Barry Weissler begin creative sessions on productions for the subsequent year. Early each summer casting for the new productions begins. At his studios in New York's theatre district, the Casting Director starts the process of finding the most ingenuous performers.

Drama Department Gives Three in One

by Leonard Sax

After the astounding success of the Drama Department 's last production "Don't Drink the Water," it would be hard to believe that another play would be in the process of production so soon. But another play is indeed on the way; well, not exactly another play. As a matter of fact, on March 25, 26, 27 the Department will present three one-act plays: three for the price of one. The plays are student-directed; auditions were held the week of February 23, giving these directors only a month to whip their casts into a performance which already promises to be great.

One of the plays is "Next" by Terence McMalley; the student director is Andy Borowitz, a senior. Another is Elaine May's "Adaptation," under Bob Grossman's direction, and the third is Robert Anderson's "Solitaire" under Michael Halpern's direction. Mr. Halpern is the only junior among the three. All three have wide-ranging dramatic experience; between them they have held principal parts in acting and producing in almost any Shaker play in the last three years. The three voiced similar motives behind their decisions to direct: Mr. Borowitz, for instance, says that he took this opportunity because he did not anticipate a theatre major in college and without such a major it would be difficult to have another chance at directing a play. "It's a rare experience" he said. Mr. Halpern said that he was looking forward to the chance to see his own ideas reflected in all the aspects of production, to see how good he would be at molding an entire play.

All three plays could be classified under the heading of social commentary although there is no common theme. Would the play go over well? One director described the three-play production as the "most exciting theatre experience of the year" on account of the variety of topics to be dealt with in a single evening. The irreverant, rebellious nature of the chosen material is expected to appeal to Shaker students.

This production in its variety promises to be an interesting and amusing evening for all involved, especially the audience. That's March 25, 26 and 27 for the Drama Department's newest thing.

Town Meeting '76 Held This Month

In order to give Shaker Heights residents the chance to see the United States' Bicentennial in a non-commercial perspective, a recasting of the traditional town meeting will take place on Saturday, March 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All citizens of Shaker Heights have been invited to attend, and activities for younger children have also been planned. The basic program will include workshops and festivities, opening with doughnuts and coffee, including lunch and entertainment, and closing with a plenary session. The town meeting will be taking place in the girls' gym here at the high school.

In the morning, workshops will focus on the economic, cultural and political issues that are currently confronting the Shaker community. During the afternoon workshops, solutions will be sought for the problems and challenges presented in the morning workshops. A printed document will be given to each participant at the end of the day, encompassing the issues covered at the workshops, and summarizing the events of the entire day.

Town Meeting '76 is being sponsored by a committee of citizens representing Shaker schools, churches, businesses and community organizations, under the chairmanship of Dr. Karl Hess. The Institute of Cultural Affairs, a non-profit Chicago-based organization, was used in consultation. Shaker High students are encouraged to participate in this event, since it offers one of the few non-commercial Bicentennial experiences available.

A Red Cross bloodmobile will be at Shaker Tuesday, March 23 from 9-1. Those wishing to donate blood must be seventeen or older and weigh at least 105 lbs; parental permission is required of all seventeen year olds wishing to donate. Registration to give blood will be held in the cafeteria the week of March 15-19 during periods 4, 5, and 6, and in the activity office.

Council Planning Activities, Changes

by Abigail Genuth

For the final semester of this school year Student Council has planned several exciting activities and has made some important and relevant decisions. One of Council's main events is a Talent Show run by Philip Kushner. Auditions, which are open to all Shaker students, continue through today, March 5, with the actual presentation taking place on Friday, April 9. In addition to this event, Robert Barkley is planning an Assembly Seminar. He welcomes any student's ideas or offers to help.

Council is aware of the student body's concerns. In response to the students' requests they are attempting to re-open the Social Room. Council is also aware of students' complaints about the recent scheduling for sophomores and juniors. These students were given approximately one week to decide on their daily schedules for the coming school year, and the majority of them felt that the scheduling came much too early, and before one had an opportunity to plan his summer, which could involve summer school and a change of schedules. Council is eager to change the scheduling procedure for next year and to help solve any conflicts that may have arisen this year. Finally, Council has decided to plant a memorial tree in honor of Linda Greenbaum, a former Shaker student who was murdered this winter vacation. With the student body's help, Council can accomplish these and other activities.

Presidential Privacy Invaded

by Robert Milman

Disgust should be the reaction of the American people to the recent allegations that some of our ex-Presidents were having affairs. The promiscuous women who make these charges are obviously trying to mar the reputations of some of our greatest Presidents for personal gain alone. Americans must refrain from buying literature published by these wanton individuals. John F. Kennedy and Franklin D. Roosevelt, two of this country's previous great leaders, should not be crucified for their alleged immoral behavior

Americans should not tolerate this slap in the face of their leaders, especially when the individuals in question are no longer living, so they cannot refute these accusations. It is the duty of each citizen of the U.S. to boycott these books in order to prevent the marring of the fine reputations of our heads of state. For if these charges are true, they still should not be brought out after what these men have contributed to America.

There is no reason why these people tell their personal stories except for wealth. These self-proclaimed authors are not doing anyone good--not the families of the ex-presidents, not the American public, nor the institution of the Presidency.

John F. Kennedy should be remembered for what he gave to this country and, therefore, be praised as one of this country's greatest leaders in our two hundred years of existence. The allegations of a promiscuous woman should not be allowed to make him infamous in the minds of Americans. JFK's many achievements during his short term as President, exemplify the quality of a President and a man that he truly was.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was one of the greatest of American Presidents, if not the greatest. He took a country that was near horrible depression and rebuilt it into the flourishing nation that we are today. It is shocking that his own son recently charged that his father had an affair during his years as President. This disrespect for a father is totally revolting.

In conclusion, I hope that the American public will reject these charges, whether true or not, that are trying to mar the character of two great Presidents. I, for one, am sick and tired of hearing these people trying to ruin the memory of JFK and FDR. The personal behavior of a man is no one's business but his own. Even if these Presidents did have affairs, their contributions to the country outweigh this behavior.

Shaker Policy Hampers Students

Shaker has a policy of not announcing the license plate numbers of cars parked on the Oval whose lights are left on. Even if a student bothers to take down the number and report it at the office, the school refuses to be of help. Reasons given for this neglect are either nonsensical or devoid of morality. I urge Student Council to take heed of this complaint as the problem is frequently encountered.

One reason given to justify the school's unwillingness to act is that an announcement would interrupt classes. This reason is totally unfounded. Most cases of lights left on are reported in the morning. If it is known before the start of first period, it could easily be announced over the P.A. at that time without any disturbances. If someone reports the license plate number after school begins, the number could be read at the end of the second period announcements with no extra class interruptions. Students could even gather a list of the students who drive to school and the license plate numbers of their cars. With the use of such a list, the office could contact just that person whose lights are on, causing a very minimal disturbance.

The second reason the school gives is by far the most serious. Cars parked on the Oval are not officially on school property; therefore, the school is not legally responsible for any problems. Perhaps Shaker is not legally responsible for the cars, but is it not morally responsible for the welfare of its students? I believe that Shaker should take the effort to help its students in any way it possibly can, and it certainly is within Shaker's reach to help its students with this problem.

THE SHAKERITE is a tri-weekly publication of the newspaper staff at Shaker Heights High School, 15911 Aldersyde Drive, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120.

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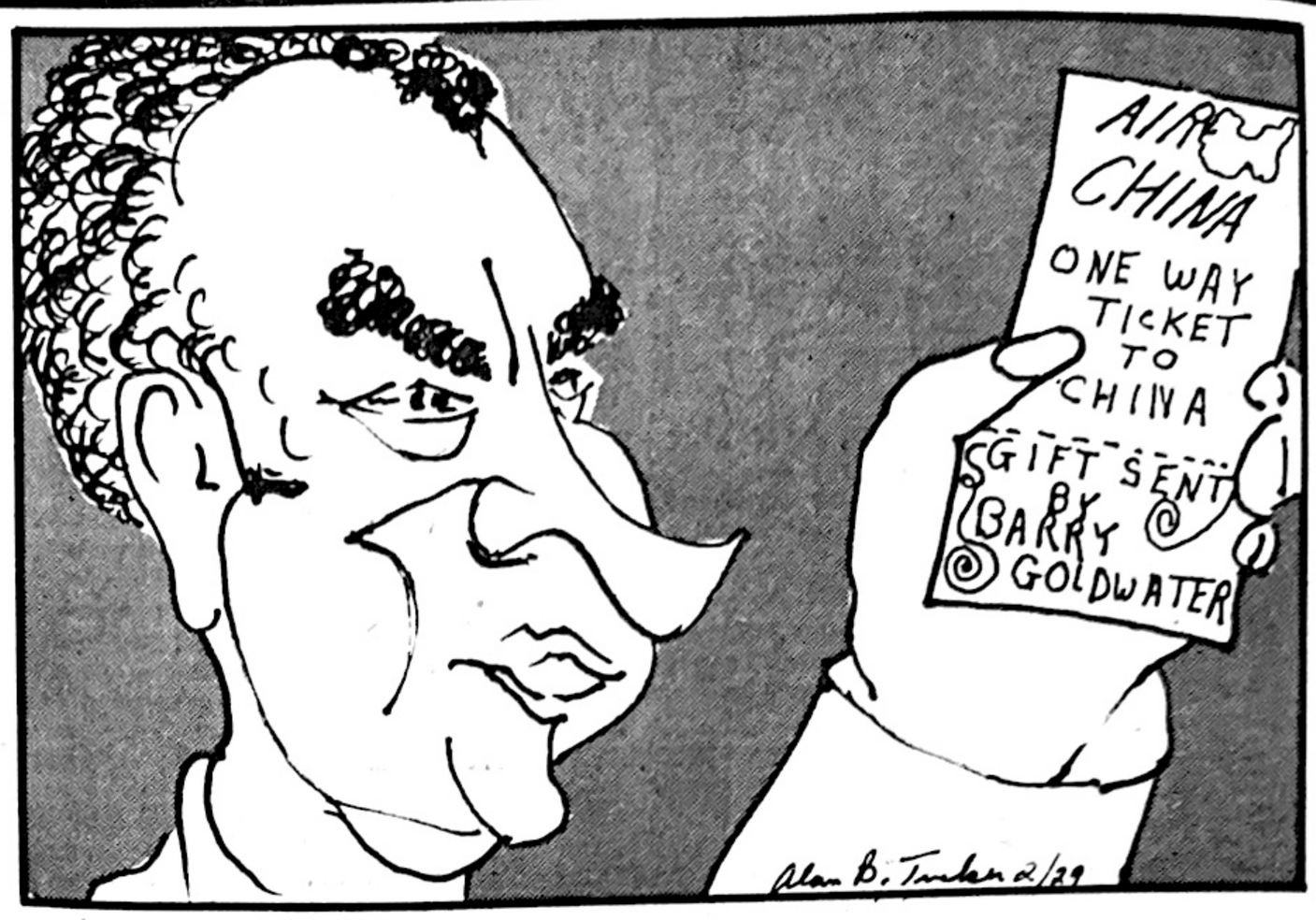


Primary Needs Reform

by Andrew Borowitz

It is doubtful that the 1976 Presidential race will solve major issues facing the American people. This disappointing prospect appears to be true now, in the primary stage of the candidates' campaigns for their parties' nominations. In a recent press conference, President Ford urged a reporter that Ronald Reagan was to the right of him ideologically, and that anyone more conservative than the President could not be elected. To the voters, political and ideological distinctions between the President and the former Governor of California are not so obvious. On the Democratic side, the majority of the Presidential candidates share moderate to liberal viewers on all of the major issues. Former Senator Fred Harris claimed that the other candidates are now beginning to conform to his views; he recently joked, "I wouldn't be surprised if they all started parting their hair in the middle like me, too."

It is distressing that there is a great deal of truth in Harris's jest. The candidates in the 1976 race are too concerned with the awesome number of political tests that they must face before they reach their parties' nominating conventions to place the same emphasis on the issues that they do on the game of politics. If anything should be decided as a result of this campaign, it should be that the political nominating system as it exists today is yielding negative results in our Presidential campaigns and should be reformed to protect America's two-party system.

In recent years, entire nomination campaigns have been made or broken by the New Hampshire primary. This was certainly true in 1972; New Hampshire made Edmund Muskie a loser and George McGovern a winner. But New Hampshire has never been significant as a barometer of American public opinion; it is atypically conservative, and has little in common with the rest of the nation. It has been given undeserved media attention and undeserved power to choose a nominee. This year, however, Jimmy Carter pulled a clever political trick by making the Iowa caucus, an equally unimportant contset, the nation's first political media attraction rather than the New Hampshire primary. By winning handily in Iowa, Carter began to convince other Democrats he was a winner; as a result, Carter has had first place and second place finishes in all of the caucuses since Iowa.

It seems a remnant of the Hamilton age, in which government by the masses was looked upon with regal disdain by the governing elite, that our nation's Presidential candidates should be chosen by such indirect means. A tiny state like New Hampshire has altogether too much power in this important process. Similarly, caucuses of party leaders around the country should not be given the power to throw the support of their states' voters on any individual candidate. Alternatives must be found to replace what is basically an elitist system.

Democratic leaders in Massachusetts took the first positive step to reform the present nominating system. They originally tried to persuade New Hampshire politicians to join in a regional primary to be held for all of New England. New Hampshire refused to give up its "First in the nation" status, so Massachusetts scheduled its primary for the week following the New Hampshire primary, in order to lessen the significance of the earlier contest. What is needed to reform the system is the establishment of regional primaries and the abolition of precinct caucuses. As the system exists today, politicians must campaign heavily in many states in order to be boosted by relatively insignificant primary and caucus victories. This process must be extremely tiring for the candidate and is certainly enervating enough to scare many good men from running for President. As a result, those who are eliminated in the early caucuses and primaries are not necessarily the worst candidates, but those who lacked the energy or the funds to continue.

Public apathy about the 1976 Presidential candidates, unfortunately, is accompanied by public concern about the issues; in particular, the American people are worried about the future of the nation's economy. Until the nominating system is reformed, the American people may be disappointed to discover that the candidates do not share their sincere concern about the issues, and are certainly not apathetic about their own campaigns. Until the primary and the caucus are recognized as political anachronisms, the Presidential nominees will continue to be the best politicians, but not necessarily the best men.

Shakerite-Council Co-operation Urged

by Abigail Genuth

Vandalism has been an issue of great concern this year at Shaker. Perhaps one of the causes of its frequent occurrence is a feeling of frustration within the student body, a feeling of inability to gain attention and to promote school reforms which could benefit the individual student. Now is the time for Shakerite and Student Council, the most effective student powers, to cooperate in a project which could lessen the causes behind vandalism.

Student Council and Shakerite could co-operate in a manner which would boost the effectiveness of each but still preserve its individual rights. First of all, Shakerite would send a representative to Student Council who would brief Student Council on ideas set forth in The Shakerite. Council would then act constructively on these ideas. In return, Shakerite would give publicity to Student Council affairs so that the whole student body would be aware of the imput their concern had on school affairs and policies. Of course, both Council and Shakerite would retain their individual identities. Council would not feel obligated to act on any idea of which they did not approve, and Shakerite would reserve the right either to advocate or to criticize Council's actions.

Perhaps if students knew that they could control school policies without violent means, one of the causes for vandalism would be alleviated. Student Council and Shakerite must make the effort to co-operate. If the two major student powers would work together, each of their purposes would be advanced; giving students the ability to have some control over the policies which influence their school lives.

Keith Jarrett: Solo Brilliance

by Randy Shorr

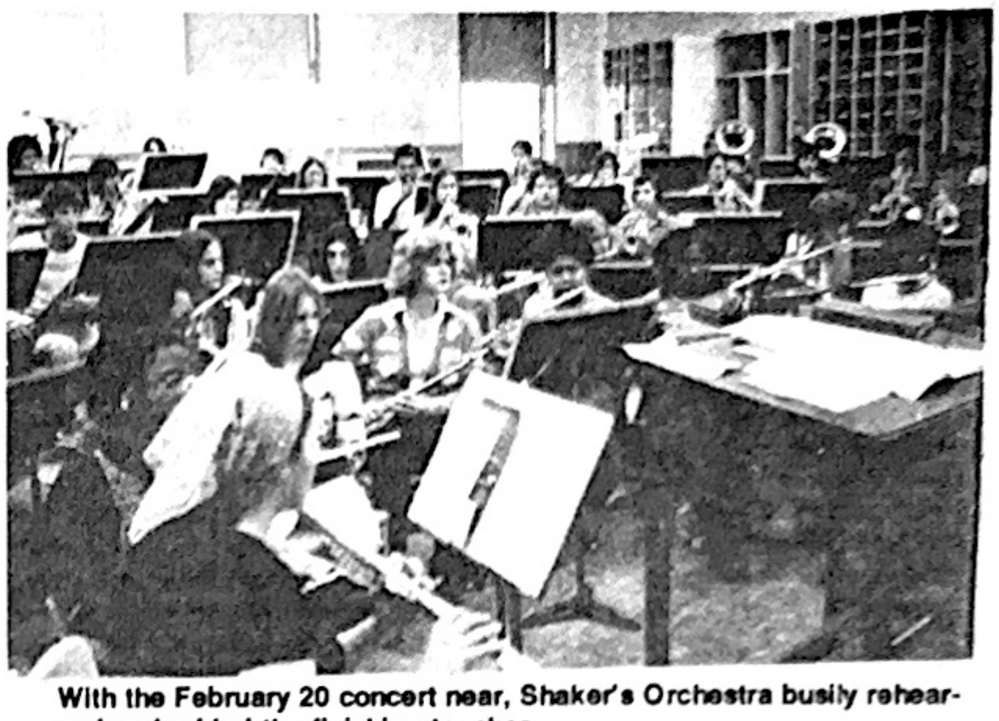
Composer Roger Sessions, in an essay entitled "The Composer and His Message," stated that "musical impulses are connected with those primitive movements which are among the very conditions of our existence. Music does not express for us love or frustration or even longing: but it does reproduce for us, both qualitatively and dynamically, certain gestures of the spirit which are to be sure less specifically definable than any of these emotions, but which energize them and make them vital to us. This is the essence of musical expression. 'Emotion' is specific, individual and conscious; music goes deeper than this, to the energies which animate our psychic life, and out of these creates a pattern which has an existence, laws, and human significance of its own. It reproduces for us the most intimate essence, the tempo and the energy, of our spiritual being; our tranquility and our restlessness, our animation and our discouragement, our vitality and our weakness – all, in fact, of the fine shades of dynamic variation of our inner life. It reproduces these far more directly and more specifically than is possible through any other medium of human communication." Keith Jarrett's double album, "The Koln Concert," is a perfect embodiment of this concept. Said Jarrett of his solo concerts, "The meaning for me is the truth involved in this: one artist creating spontaneously something which is governed by the atmosphere, the audience, the place (both the room and the geographical location), the instrument; all these being channelled through the artist so that everyone's etforts are equally rewarded, although the success or failure belongs completely to the artist himself. The artist is responsible for every second...I don't believe that I can create, but that I can be a channel for the creative."

Jarrett's solo concert albums, "Bremen-Lausanne" and "The Koln Concert," along with Chick Corea's "Piano Improvizations, Volumes One and Two," represent a purity in concept that is rarely found in music. The philosophy of these works lies in the artist's belief that music is not an exercise, but a form of communication and that musical communication is not a calculated, written, orchestrated attempt at the reproduction or portrayal of a story or a specific emotion. Rather, it is one artist expressing himself spontaneously on one instrument with the hope of capturing an "energy" which is the basic force in creating an emotion or a story. This is a part of the subconscious and can therefore be noticed and portrayed by a pure and spontaneous method such as that of Keith Jarrett.

Purity is the key word in Jarrett's music. His music is totally uncontrived, seemingly an exact interpretation of some very natural energies. Each of the four untitled sides contains a series of involved, contrasting images which, through Jarrett's insistence on the use of acoustic piano, are able to offer a sensitive communication direct from Jarrett to the listener. His style varies from jazz to rhythm, blues to classical, and from delicate to athletic. He has a masterful understanding of dynamics and rhythm, both of which he uses to communicative advantage.

"The Koln Concert" is a very high quality recording. Manfred Eicher of ECM records, who also produced Chick Corea's solo albums for the same label, has managed to make the recorded sound of one piano into something very grand. The result is a very beautiful sound that is full, yet crystal clear. Aside from a few drawbacks, such as the sound of Jarrett humming as he plays, and the two minutes of recorded applause on each side, the album can be considered a technical masterpiece.

The most outstanding aspect of "The Koln Concert" is not its music, but the concept of communication through music. Some may think that the dominance of this concept makes for an otherwise stark album, and in a sense they are right. But Jarrett's solo concert albums are the embodiment of the philosophy of the communicative possibilities of the individual performing alone on the acoustic piano. He has proven his point; those possibilities are endless.



With the February 20 concert near, Shaker's Orchestra busily rehearsed and added the finishing touches.

Performances Vary at Winter Concert

by Leonard Sax

The Winter Instrumental Concert, produced Friday, February 20, was an exercise in variation; the listener certainly never knew what was coming next. Credit must be given to the Stage Band and Brass Choir for truly musical performances, though the same credit could not be so freely given to the Orchestra and Wind Ensemble.

The program opened with the Brass Choir. The group played well together with a fine, solid tone though one might not expect so professional a performance after watching students distractedly wandering in from all directions across the poorly-lit stage shortly before the program began. The Brass Choir played only one number: "Three Intradas," by Vaclav Nelybel.

Following the Choir the audience heard the Wind Ensemble, the largest group, whose members were confusingly listed on the next page under "Band Personnel." The Ensemble was technically about average; though there were obviously many virtuostic players present, the listener heard their efforts less than a few squeaks from the clarinets or missed notes by sections. The Ensemble's opening numbers were "Toccata" by Girolamo Frescobaldi, "Festival Prelude" by Alfred Reed, and "George Washington Bicentennial March" by John Philip Sousa, a curious title considering that Sousa has not been around for a while now.

The Orchestra members then made their uneasy way onto the stage. When they played – though I'm still not really sure if they ever started – the listener received one of the big surprises of the evening. The tone was, as a whole, horrendous and technically the orchestra was miles off what one guessed they ought to be playing except for the handful of good players whose numbers were so small that they sounded as wrong as the rest. The only pleasure received from this group was the sound of its final note. The Orchestra's numbers included the first movement of Haydn's "London" Symphony, the "Rakoczy March" by N. Clifford Page, and the "Bunker Hill Fantasy" by Jack Johnston.

Next it was the turn of the Stage Band. Unless the listener was prepared, he was probably shocked by the raw musicianship and truly fine ensemble character exhibited by this group. As a group as well as individually the Stage Band played excellently, and credit should go to the participating students, whose names were not given separate notice on the program. Special recognition was merited by soloists Jeff Gale and Leo Gaglione, both exceptional trumpet players. The Stage Band unfortunately played only two numbers: Robert Wadsworth's "Ascendancy" and Mitch Farber's "Hip Soul Funky Jazz Blues" with Leo Gaglione conducting.

The program was closed by the Wind Ensemble's performance of "March Five" by William P. Latham and "Glenn Miller in Concert" by Wayne Scott.

Allen Comedy Is Success

by Eric Russell

If the success of a high school theatrical performance were evaluated in direct proportion to audience size, then the Drama Department's presentation of "Don't Drink the Water" would be considered a dismal flop. Fortunately, plays are not so judged, as the Department's mid-February comedy was far better acted than attended.

The plot of "Don't Drink the Water" is fairly simple, not unlike the character of Axel Magee, the Ambassador's son. In effect, the play is an elaboration on the boy-meets-girl, boy-falls-in-love-with-girl, boy-decides-to-marry-girl theme. The common plot takes place in an equally uncommon atmosphere – an American Embassy somewhere behind the iron curtain. The effectiveness with which the embassy is run parodys the effectiveness with which our home government is sometimes run. Watching the play, I was tempted to defect to a nation where ambassadors know the potential danger of a bundle of dynamite.

Axel Magee was played by Andy Glassberg, a freshman actor who despite his inexperience represented quite well the character of an accident-prone failure. Lisa Hollander effectively interpreted the role of Susan Hollander, a young American who loves her parents despite their many shortcomings. Her mother was played by Anne Spoeneman who, assisted with an excellent make-up job, convinced the audience that she was a 40-year-old caterer's wife. Robert Resnick played opposite Anne as her husband Walter. Richard's contortions and gesticulations made him the most appreciated actor of the night. Other major parts were filled by Andrew Borowitz, a veteran actor who portrayed a Catholic Father who by no stretch of the imagination was kin to Harry Houdini, and Philip Kushner, acting the part of a smug yet competent Ambassador's aide.

A number of minor parts were played well also. John Russell did an efficient, business-like rendition of the efficient, business-like Ambassador Magee. The part of Krojack, a somewhat confused secret police officer, was performed by Gary Muszynski. Jim Walker acted as the Ambassador's chef, a wizard of cuisine who is dominated by Marion Hollander.

Because of the tremendous number of satirical statements and puns, many humorous lines went right past the audience. Unfortunately, many others went out the stage wings or into the floor. At times it was extremely difficult to catch the words of the actors, who must persist in practicing the art of projecting their voices to the audience rather than to each other.

The play was most successful regarding the choice of actors and actresses. Mr. W. Thomas Beckner, director of the production, must be given a grand round of applause for his initiative in selecting fresh talent to perform on the Shaker stage. In the past a sort of "actors clique" has dominated major roles in theatrical productions. In "Don't Drink the Water," however, many aspiring talents were given a chance. Hopefully, Mr. Beckner will continue to choose his performers with regard to talent and not to Thespian points.

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CENTERFOLD
by PERRY NUSSBAUM

THE SHAKERITE GUIDE TO PEOPLE AT PARTIES

The First-time "Partyer"

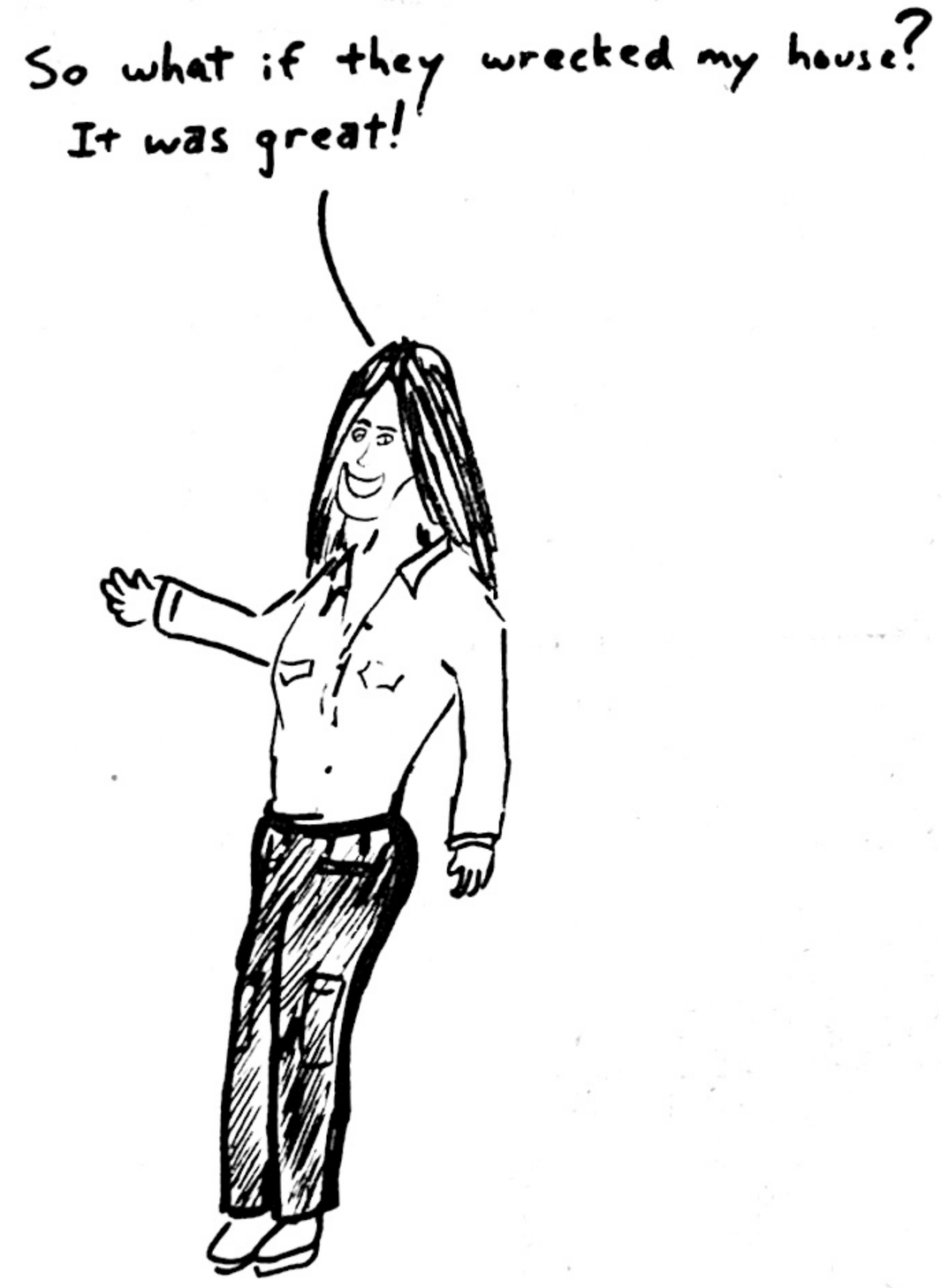
The first time partygoer is at first a bit bewildered as he enters a room full of people and loud music. He is obviously uncomfortable as he fondles his full can of beer nervously, and continually looks around the room for some normal people to talk to. Soon, however, he becomes quite proficient in the "art" of making small talk, a skill which will prove invaluable at cocktail parties in later life.

The "I'm so buzzed" Kid

The fake drunkard is perhaps the most amusing character to be seen at a party. He searches for anyone who will listen to his false cries of "I'm so gone" or "I've had 37 beers, and I don't know what's going on." It is particularly entertaining to talk to him the next day, because somehow, through a miracle of science, he is able to remember everything that went on at the party! Truly amazing, isn't it?

The Beer-lover

The beer lover has no hypocritical characteristics, he is genuine in his love for, as he would put it, "brew". It's not that he's an alcoholic, ("he could stop anytime he wants to"), it's just that he likes the whole atmosphere associated with drinking a lot of beer. Often mistaken for a person dependant upon alcohol, (Sara T: Portrait of a Teen-age Alcoholic), he is content to guzzle his beer at parties throughout his partying career, or as long as his liver lasts!



The Host of the Party

The host of the party has to be either the most courageous or most stupid person in the school, (it depends). In most cases, however, the host volunteers his or her house for the party as a genuine gesture of good will towards his friends. Unfortunately, the guests at the party usually wreak havoc upon the home of the host. Well, all the mess is soon forgotten when he thinks of the fun he had, and the fact that the party is at someone else's house next Saturday!

Joni Mitchell's Cleveland concert featured the tender lyrics for which she is famous. The above picture is taken from "Court and Spark."

Joni Sings Well In Spite of Acoustics

For the near-capacity crowd that gathered at Public Hall to hear the songs of Joni Mitchell, one of music's longtime stars, Friday, February 13 was a lucky night. After a one hour set was played by her back-up band, the L.A. Express, Joni herself appeared on stage, much to the delight of the anxious audience. She wore a black pantsuit with padded shoulders, a change from her usual long dresses. Her blonde hair was hidden under a black stiff-brimmed hat. Embroidered roses graced her sleeves, while red roses in a vase graced the stage.

She began her hour and a half performance with "Help Me" and "Free Man in Paris," both from her album "Court and Spark." Unfortunately, the acoustics in Public Hall are far from ideal, so that whenever she was accompanied by the entire L.A. Express, as in these two songs, her lyrics were barely discernible.

For her next number, "Cold Blue Steel and Sweet Fire," Joni was accompanied only by her own acoustic guitar and the saxophone of David Luelle. As a result, the acoustics improved markedly, giving the audience a chance to fully appreciate Joni's soaring voice and mellow guitar playing. After "Cold Blue Steel" she let down her fine blonde hair and replaced her black hat with a cab driver's cap in order to sing her hit song "Big Yellow Taxi."

Returning to the guitar after playing the piano for her song "For Free," Joni said, "I'm going to bump some of the old songs and bring you up to date." The first of her new songs, "Coyote," with a good beat and sorrowful lyrics, was reminiscent of some of her older music. The second of her new songs, "Don Juan's Reckless Daughter" was not particularly noteworthy; however, neither was "Ferry Sings the Blues," the latest of her new compositions. "Talk to Me," accompanied by congos, had a catchy tune and was quite good.

She went on to play several numbers from her new album "The Hissing of Summer Lawns." In general, these songs were jazzier and had more complicated melodies than her earlier songs. Yet there is one common factor in all of her music, both old and new: melancholy. Nearly all of her lyrics tell of sorrow and brokenheartedness. On stage Joni seems somewhat aloof, as if she might break if the audience came too close. One wonders what hardships she must have suffered, what troubles have made her seem so sorrowful.

She ended her set with "The Jungle Line," a disappointing finale. The song is a real rocker, and as a result the acoustics during the number were absolutely awful. When she walked off stage at the end of the song, we could scarcely believe that she had ended her concert so poorly. But when the Hall was filled with flickering matches she returned to sing the amusing song "Twisted."

In general the concert was good, although the poor acoustics kept it from being truly great. In addition, we were disappointed that Joni did not play any of her older hits such as "Circle Game," "Conversation," or "Both Sides." Nonetheless, we couldn't help but be caught up and carried away by the beauty and range of her voice, and the penetrating sorrow of her lyrics.

Multi-Media Show Slated for June

A group of seniors is currently working to produce a multi-media presentation in the high school auditorium at the end of the school year. The show, "Worlds In Changes," will be presented June 4 and 5.

The multi-media show, which will be the senior project for many of the seniors involved in the production, follows in the tradition established by 1974's "Old Friends" and last year's "This Side of Heaven." Some of the media that "Worlds In Changes" will involve include music, dance, poetry, photography, film, theater, and other assorted visual media. Although "Worlds In Changes" is a multi-media show, the seniors who are organizing it believe that the show's concept and purpose are different from those of past multi-media productions at Shaker.

"Worlds In Changes" will be more strictly thematic than past shows. It will be more than a loosely connected collection of song and dance numbers. The show intends to explore changes in human experience. The first segment of the show will deal with the individual's changing attitudes about himself and his world. The second segment will examine the changes in human relationships. The major portion of the show will attempt to view life as a series of changes. The show will conclude with several retrospective views of the changes one experiences in the course of a lifetime.

Much time has already been spent planning the program and defining the production's concept. The five seniors who have been the show's principal organizers, Andy Borowitz, Bob Grossman, Nancy Seidman, Randy Shorr, and Liz Wilkerson, began meeting last June to discuss the plans for "Worlds In Changes". Now that the show is well-organized, other elite students are being included in planning the production itself.

Songs for "Worlds In Changes" were chosen for their relevance to the show's theme. Many popular artists are included: Joni Mitchell, Elton John, Stevie Wonder, Carole King, David Bowie, Bonnie Raitt, Dave Mason, Phoebe Snow, and John Lennon and Paul McCartney are all represented in the "Worlds In Changes" program. One big difference between "Worlds In Changes" and previous multi-media productions is that much of the music is original; almost one third of the musical numbers are composed by Randy Shorr, who will play keyboards and arrange the instrumentals for the show, and Andy Borowitz, who will sing and arrange vocals for "Worlds In Changes".

With three months remaining before the production of "Worlds In Changes," the seniors are hoping that they will be able to enact the ideas that they acquired since planning for the show began last June.

Shaker's Debate team reached a unanimous decision to pose for this picture.

Debate Club Receives City-wide Recognition

by Marc Krantz

After an uncertain start with only three experienced debators, the Shaker Heights Debate Team can claim to be the best in the city. In the District Finals, with twenty other teams from metropolitan Cleveland competing, the debate team came away with the Sweepstakes prize, which is awarded to the best team in the city. The team, however, did not make the State Finals.

Going to the State Finals from the Individual Speaking team are: Signe Osborn, John Korman, Leonard Sax, and Ben Victor as an alternate. Signe captured third place at Districts for her reading of Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky" and Dr. Seuss. For his rendition of "Spoon River" and John Steinbeck, John Korman won second place in Prose and Poetry. Leonard Sax won second place in the class of Original Oration. The other members of the I.S. team that went to the District Finals were: Dave Hoffman, Jim Campbell, Nellie Zimnachow, Sara Gersbach, Claudia Gold, Ruth Kass, Robby Resnick, Claudia Nelson, Meg Anderson, Alison Roberts, Stephanie Berry and Laura Ross.

The Varsity Debate Team suffered a tough loss in the Districts. Fighting for a position in the State Finals, the team of Chris Berry, Martin Krongold, Fred Nelson, and Marc Shargel tied with seven other teams. Unfortunately, Shaker had to face second seeded St. Edward in a playoff round. Even though they did not make the State Finals, the Varsity Debate Team should be congratulated for their strong showing all season, plus a 4-2 record in the District meet. Accolades should also be given to the Junior Varsity Team of Alison Roberts, Bruce Griffin, Ruth Kass, and Sara Gersbach, who rose from a "D" classification (the lowest debate team rating) to a "B" rating.

A debate consists of three different rounds. The first round is an eight minute speech on the resolved situation. This year the resolution was: "The allocation and distribution of scarce world resources should be controlled." The affirmative team may interpret scarce resources as anything from oil to money. The opposing negative team then must do some quick thinking and construct an eight minute speech to refute the affirmative team's contentions. Following the first round comes three minutes of cross-examination and four minutes of rebuttal. The judge must determine if the affirmative team has proved their resolution, if not, the negative team wins the debate.

Anyone interested in a job involving public speaking, law, or politics could benefit from the chance the Debate team offers to express oneself to a crowd. A person on the team does not have to believe in his or her argument, although he must sound like he does. A good deal of acting is needed for debating as well as any form of Individual Speaking. If you are interested in joining the Shaker team for next season, contact Dr. Strater or Mr. Nosse. Once again, congratulations to the Shaker Debators and Individual Speakers.

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Grapplers Grasp Glimpse of Glory

by Mark Reynolds

The Shaker wrestling team ended six years of frustration by beating Shaw, 39-24, February 20. The victory was Shaker's first since January 10, 1970, when Shaker beat Shaw, by a score of 23-20.

The match started on a disappointing note for Shaker. 98-pounder Mike Kass lost a 3-0 decision. Shaw had no wrestlers in the 105, 112, and 119-pound categories, and Shaker was awarded forfeit victories in each class. Jon Blaugrund, Shaker's captain and 126-pound wrestler, lost a heartbreaking 6-4 decision on a takedown in the final half-minute of the match. Joe Gullia (132) brought the surprisingly large crowd back to life by pinning his opponent in the second period of his match. After losing a decision in the 138-pound class, Shaker came back with three consecutive wins, Billy Bialosky won his first varsity match with a 4-0 decision. Keith Newman, Shaker's 155-pounder, followed by pinning his opponent in a swift 1:44. His pin triggered a huge celebration on the Shaker bench and in the stands, with both Shaker wrestlers and partisans sensing a victory. Bruce Tall, wrestling at 167, was almost pinned before the jubilation had ended. Tall valiantly struggled for a minute (a long time in a wrestling match), and avoided defeat. Tall's struggle was more taxing on his opponent, who was too fatigued to complete the match. Tall was awarded a forfeit victory, and Shaker's first victory in five seasons was assured.

First-year head coach Conrad Calendar and junior varsity Tom Barrett have worked hard and have overcome injuries and a shortage of wrestlers to end the losing streak. Their hard workouts have resulted in Shaker's wrestlers being in better condition than many of their opponents. The team was composed almost entirely of sophomores and juniors forcing Calendar and Barrett to spend much of the time in practice actually teaching maneuvers and strategies. But their work might have been much harder if not for the strong sense of unity among the wrestlers. The dedication of all parties involved has been rewarded, and the future of Shaker's wrestling team looks bright.

After the Shaw match, Shaker began preparations for the state tournament. Their victory after 82 consecutive losses ranks as one of the most exciting moments in recent Shaker sports history.

SHAKER 39 SHAW 24

98 - Leasure (SHAW) dec. Mike Kass, 3-0; 105 - Jim Walker (SHAKER) by forfeit; 112 - David Wallace (SHAKER) by forfeit; 119 - Bob Krohngold (SHAKER) by forfeit; 126 - Harris (SHAW) dec Jon Blaugrund 6-4 ; 132 - Joe Gullia (SHAKER) pinned Thompson, 3:20; 138 - Hoffman (SHAW) dec. Darren Zunno, 10-3; 145 - Bill Bialosky (SHAKER) dec. Thomas, 4-0; 155 - Keith Newman (SHAKER) pinned O'Neal, 1:44; 167 - Bruce Tall (SHAKER) by default over Woods, injury; 175 - Collins (SHAW) dec. Steve Wolf, 9-1; 185 - Redmond (SHAW) by forfeit; HVY. - Becoat (SHAW) by forfeit.

This is what used to happen to our Shaker wrestlers -- now things are different.

Girl Cagers Win

by Pat Watts

Shaker's Girls' Basketball team is having an outstanding season. They have recently beat Parma, Berea, and Shaw to give them a 6-0 record. Marcelle Nance was the most valuable player against the Shaw Cardinals while Leslie Pruitt led the team in scoring against Parma with 29 points, and Edie Thompson led the Raiders with 23 rebounds. Betty Bray, Vicki Deal, Mary Leo, Lynne Marshall, Lisa Payne, and Pat Watts form the rest of the Red Raider's varsity team with additional help from J.V. Players Carol Funderburk, Faye Perryman, Sandra McKnight, Sabrina Spencer and Raynea Deal. The real challenge for Shaker will come in the next two weeks when Shaker meets Lakewood who, like the Raiders, has not lost a game this season. Hopefully, the girls will be as victorious against Lakewood as they have been throughout this season.

Trackmen Hope for the Best

by Geoff Mearns

The well-rounded Shaker track team is looking forward to one of its best seasons in recent years. Head coach Bob Rice has been working with the team since January and sees many strong points. There are quite a few young sprinters and hurdlers who show some great potential. The middle distance and distance squad is both young and experienced with much depth in each event. The field event crew excels in a few events and is trying to discover more talent in others.

The sprinters and hurdlers, as a group, have high hopes for the coming season, but as yet, they have not really been tested. They are led by one of the premier hurdlers in Northeast Ohio, co-captain Andy Johnson. He, along with Coach Rice, has been schooling many of the youngsters in the fine art of sprinting. However, because of the severe winter, they have had to work out in the very unfriendly confines of the basement hallway. Such youngsters are: juniors Keith Lavender, Derek Davis, Cliff Carter, and Ed Carver; and sophomore Duane Taylor. These sprinters have not yet been able to train and compete under ideal conditions; Therefore, they will not really know what they can do until the beginning of the outdoor schedule.

The middle and distance squad is composed of a few seniors, a large quantity of experienced juniors, and a handful of sophomores. In the quarter mile and half mile the Raiders are blessed with two of the area's best, co-captain Perry Johnson and another senior Mark Monroe. In the mile run Shaker has two premier runners in the Abrahms twins. Both Danny and Paul are looking for another season that can compare with last years when they broke several Shaker sophomore records.

In the field events, rookie coach Mr. Kotmel is working in the areas that have been the perennial weaknesses of Shaker track. Shaker is really struggling in the three field events - other than polevaulting and shot put, where Jon Gram and Thor Wallace, respectively, will most-likely succeed. An example of this is in the high jump where only one Raider, Joe Bickerstaff, has cleared a height of 5'6", the starting height in most of the larger meets.

In conclusion, the two words that are the keys to the coming spring track season are depth and work. Despite Shaker's obvious strength in the hurdles, the pole vault, and the half mile and mile, the Raiders will need much more depth in the field events and much more work in every event.

Stickers Hopes Fade

by Mike Platt

At the beginning of the hockey season, the Shaker icers and their fans had expectations of a city championship. Shaker still has a small chance at the title, but so far they've had a disappointing season.

With an 11-7 record and 4 games to go (2 against the first and third ranked teams in the city), Shaker won't finish with the record they thought they would achieve. Two of Shaker's defeats were at the hands of Cleveland Heights. In both games Shaker was tied 2-2 with about 10 minutes to go but blew it in the final minutes.

Shaker has outscored its opponents 117 to 56 in their first 18 games. With a balanced scoring attack, Shaker is a powerful offensive team. They average 6.5 goals per game and give up 3.11 goals per game. This is a difference of 3.39 which places Shaker in third place in the city, under this category.

Shaker must reach the semifinals of the city tournament, beginning in March, to qualify for the state competition. What this means is that Shaker will have to win its first 2 games of an 18 team tournament where the games are chosen by a draw. The first round will be a tough one for Shaker because one of the top 4 teams may draw Shaker. The drawings for this city tournament will be held on March first.

After a long season for Shaker, everything comes down to this city tournament, If Shaker comes through the first round of the tournament, they will have a fair chance of going all the way.

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Swimmers Hopeful in District Meet

by Eric Russell

After months of training, the swimming season will draw to a close tomorrow. At this very moment a number of Raider swimmers are awaiting their chance to shoot for a state swimming title. As this article was written prior to the district meet, the results are unknown; nevertheless, this dauntless writer will attempt to summarize certain team member's chances of reaching the state meet, which will be held in Canton this year.

The Medley Relay has an excellent chance at qualifying for the state meet. Comprised of co-captain Eric "Buckwheat" Russell, Junior butterflier Bill Fullmer, Junior breastroker Steve Fejes, and Junior sprinter Andy Brown, the relay has the capability of setting a new school standard. Although some of their dual-meet performances would indicate otherwise, the potential does exist.

The 200-yard freestyle will be controlled by Sophomore Mark Bombelles, who in all likelihood will be named this year's high point winner. His chances in the 200 are minimal; but, Mark is eligible to compete in the longer 500-yard freestyle event, where his chances are much greater. Unfortunately, Mark has been sick for a number of days, and his absence from the pool is likely to take its toll.

Andy Brown will attempt to qualify in the 50-yard free, an event that is the swimmers' version of the 100-yard dash. Often the time difference between first and sixth places does not exceed three-tenths of a second. If Andy can stay with the field, his time will certainly have to be reckoned with by other swimmers.

Bill Fullmer, a 0:57.0 butterflier, has a very good shot at the state meet. His times have been consistently fast the entire year. If Bill can drop a second off his present time, he will be in contention for the trip to Canton. Any drop of more than a full second will only insure his position.

Another butterflier, Eric Russell, has motivation to swim fast at the district meet. Eric, though not as fast as Fullmer, is known for his late season time drops. If Eric's time drops as it has for the last two years, he could latch onto a competitor's pass in Canton.

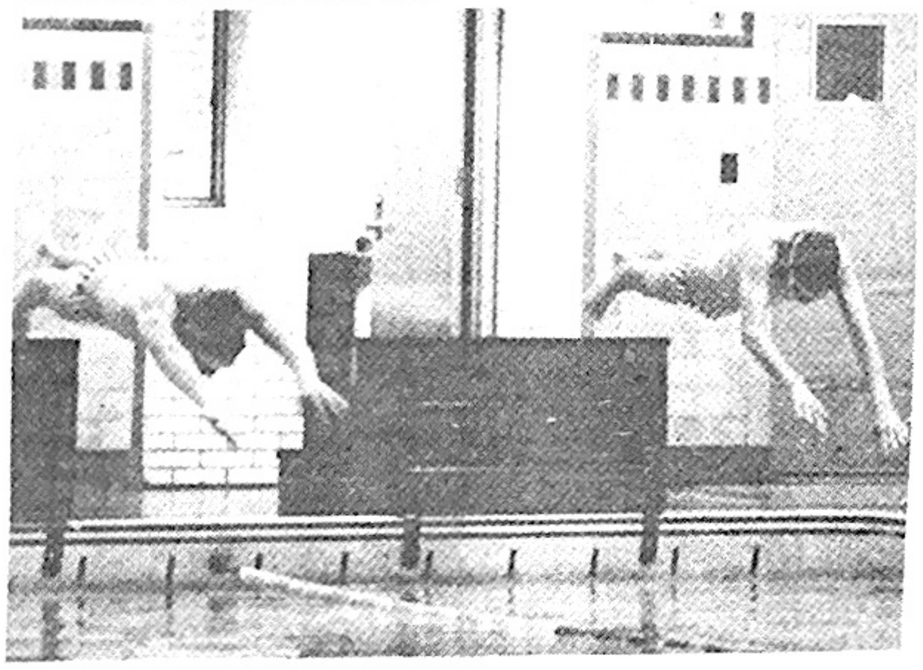
Three breastrokers have the capability of qualifying for the state meet. Having qualified for the state meet as a junior, co-captain David Landau is looking forward to his second Solo State performance. Although his times this year have not been quite up to his expectations, or anyone's expectations for that matter, Dave's chances of making the state meet cutoffs are "likely".

Junior Steve Fejes may also find himself in competition for a place on the state team. Steve's times have improved immensely since last year and, if he swims exceptionally well, may qualify for this year's meet.

"Animal" Ed Hess is the third of the breastroke trio who might find himself in downtown Canton. Ed was the last member of the breastroke clan to qualify for the district meet, yet with his uncanny ability to psyche himself up, he cannot be ignored. What Ed has to guard against is "over-psyching", a condition which has often more harmful to a swimmer than helpful.

Finally, Shaker's 400-yard freestyle relay could power their way to a lane in the Canton pool. Mark Bombelles, Bob Kruse, Andy Brown, and Bill Fullmer make up this relay that could surprise a number of swimmers and coaches alike. Hopefully, each of the members will swim up to his potential, as a very fast set of times will be needed to qualify.

Of course, there are many "ifs" listed above. Conceivably, all of the aforementioned swimmers could make the trip to Canton, but to believe this would be folly. Hopefully, a good number of these athletes will swim well enough in the Cleveland State University pool to qualify for the state meet. We can only hope for the best and wish these swimmers good luck in their efforts. For the others, their near misses will serve as incentive for next year's swimming season.



Two Shaker swimmers leave the blocks hoping to lower their times for the District meet.

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Hoopers Halfway Home

by Jim McCord

With a little less than half the season left, Intramural Basketball has been very exciting, but it also has meant a few surprises. The Sweathogs are the only team in the league with a perfect record. The Easterbunnies, probably the best team, forfeited to the sophomore Cellar Dwellers.

Besides their forfeit to the Cellar Dwellers, the Easterbunnies have run all on-comers off the court. The Easter bunnies haulted the Oblivion Express with a 20-point victory. Richard Underwood had a good showing in this game with 24 points and 19 rebounds. In another game, the Easterbunnies routed the East 116th St. Bombers by 60 points with the help of Duane Easterling, who stole the ball 10 times and dropped in 32 points.

The 77's have been playing consistently strong basketball. They had an easy victory over the highly-rated Sweethearts, winning by 20 points. The 77's have been playing their typical hustling and pressure-defense game, nearly breaking an I.B. record when they clouted the Cellar Dwellers by 90 points. Stuart Gilbert and Peter Levine had excellent performances in this game; Gilbert scored 31 points and pulled down 22 rebounds while Levine gathered 12 steals.

The Sweathogs are the only team to have an unblemished record of 5-0. The Sweathogs are a good team, but are not expected to take the championship. They are very strong on the boards with the Abrahms twins who also help on the scoring. Bob Bartlett has a good game against the Superstars, scoring 24 points and pulling down 12 rebounds. John Haskell also played well with 18 rebounds and 7 assists.

The Geniuses IV have a 4-1 record, losing only to the Sweathogs. The Geniuses had an especially close game against the Brumeisters. Dave Vernon kept the Brumeisters in the game by his driving lay-ups that helped score his 12 points. Les Kaciban's aggressive play kept the opposition rattled, but in the end it was Tom Haskell's and Any Glassberg's outside shooting that made the difference. Nate Gordon had an exceptional game against the R. Brownies, snatching 19 steals and blocking 4 shots. Jiro Montford scored an exciting last second shot against the Superstars that gave the Brumeisters a 1-point victory.

The Oblivion Express are the only other team that has chalked up a 4-1 record. They had an easy victory over Bledsoe's Bongin' Bombers, but this was not the case when they confronted the Brumeisters. The Brumeisters played well and probably would have won if it were not for the inside domination of Dale Farrell. The Oblivion Express just managed a 6-point victory.

The playoffs will be coming up in a few weeks and we hope that those will be just as exciting as some of our regular season games.

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Haskell's View

by Tom Haskell

With another poor showing in winter sports, Shaker's chances for a principal's cup in the Lake Erie League this year have diminished quite a bit. Leading after the fall season, the Raiders finished last in basketball, next-to-last in wrestling and fourth in swimming, dropping them far out of first place. Only the girls basketball team, which is currently undefeated, will keep Shaker anywhere near the top. Lakewood, which was in second place after the fall season, finished first in swimming and fifth in basketball. This showing, along with how well they did in wrestling, should put the Rangers in first place. Look for Shaker to give a good effort in the spring sports, however, and to really come close to first place in the principal's cup, if not win it. The Raiders' baseball, tennis and track teams all look very strong.

With such poor showings by winter sports teams this year, one might think that next year will be another bad year for the Shaker winter teams. I feel, however, that next winter could and should be a very good winter for Shaker. The three best players on the present varsity basketball team, Kevin Clayton, Mark Perry and Earl Souter, are all juniors, and there are a few promising J.V. players, such as junior David Blumberg and sophomore Morris Thompson. The wrestling team consists mostly of underclassmen, and with its new head coach Conrad Calender working the wrestlers hard, next year could mean many more victories for the grapplers. The swimmers are primarily sophomores and juniors also, with Eric Russell and David Landau the only prominent swimmers graduating. The hockey team seems to be the only team losing a significant amount of players, although there are quite a few good underclassmen on the present team. All in all, there should be many more victories for Shaker's winter sports teams next year.

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